
PLYMOUTH CAST NEWSLETTER – 28th June 2017

Dear Heads, Governors, Staff and Volunteers,

Welcome to the Plymouth CAST fortnightly newsletter. In this edition the focus will be

1. Message from Kate Griffin
2. News from Schools
3. Fire Risk Assessment Course
4. Debt Management in Schools
5. Event Dates
6. Date of Next Newsletter: 12th July 2017

1. Message from Kate Griffin, Interim CEO

I am very grateful to all who attended the summit at Exeter Race Course on 16th and/or the governor training sessions the following week. I know how difficult it can be to come to terms with the proposals for such significant change, however I was heartened by the tone of the meetings and I hope that you will respond as requested. I stressed that this was a consultation on the 'what' and there will be another consultation on the 'how'. I hope you will respond as requested so that the board can agree a way forward that takes account of your views. Thank you.

In recent years it is accepted that the Ofsted 'bar' has been raised significantly. There is currently an Ofsted consultation on short inspections in schools which closes on 18th August 2017; the link is to the parliamentary briefing paper.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/short-inspections-of-good-schools>

In short Ofsted has begun a consultation on proposed changes to the short inspection approach for good maintained schools and academies and outstanding and good maintained nurseries, special schools and pupil referral units from October 2017. The proposals are that:

* Short inspections that convert to a section 5 inspection will now do so within a period of up to 15 working days of the short inspection. The conversion inspection would be at any point during that period, although Ofsted will aim to carry it out as soon as possible. If the conversion inspection is due to safeguarding concerns, the expectation is that it will continue to be within 48 hours.

* Some good schools will receive a section 5 inspection from the outset, instead of a short inspection, if published information, Ofsted's regional intelligence and Ofsted's risk assessment process indicate that there will be a need to collect more evidence than is routinely gathered on a short inspection to reach a judgment about the school. All other good schools will continue to receive a short inspection.

I apologise for sounding cynical but to have a consultation that concludes in the middle of August, to me does not seem helpful.

I also noted that in the middle of August last year the department announced a lifting of the requirement for new schools to have sprinkler systems. I would ask that you pray for the schools and their communities that have been so affected by the Grenfell Tower fire. In particular for Isaac Shawo, aged five, a pupil at St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School who remains missing and is believed to have died.

During my presentation on 16th June I talked about the opportunity to take part in a conference on Primary Leadership run by the Prince's Teaching Institute. I hope that if a small group of heads from Plymouth CAST can attend the conference and follow their attendance by taking part in an action research project it would support my view that there is a tremendous amount that we, as members of CAST, can do to create a learning community helping and supporting each other. If you want to know more please go to princes-ti.org.uk and look at the Primary Leadership Residential. I know it is close to our own conference, but those involved will have an opportunity to describe their experience and possible projects. Please email me if you are interested, at this stage just confirm your interest and give a brief description of the action research you would like to undertake.

Rosaries for schools I have also attached a letter from the Catenians. Bishop Mark wishes to encourage this initiative and rather than passing on your details and having lots of schools being contacted by Mr Prendertgast individually. If you would like rosaries for your school please contact Helen Moram at CAST HQ and we can then co-ordinate the process.

I shall try to keep my next contribution shorter as I know how busy schools are preparing for next year.

With very best wishes and thanks for all you are doing to improve the life chances of the pupils in CAST schools.

2. News from Schools

Central Area Y6 leavers mass.

The Y6 pupils and staff from the 12 schools in CAST Central area came together for a Leavers Mass and celebration at Blessed Sacrament Church, Heavitree.

Mass was celebrated by Fr Jonathon Stewart, and he was joined by Fr Mark O'Keefe, Fr Pat Costello & Fr Mark Skelton who concelebrated.

The children led the service with hymns, prayers, and a march of flags.



The opening prayer, offered by pupils from Priory Catholic Primary School in Torquay said, *'We wear different uniforms, we are taught by different teachers, we live in different towns, but we have one thing in common: we are all a part of Plymouth CAST – a shared community that has enabled us all to grow in our love of God, given us opportunities to develop as individuals and loved and cared for us during our primary school years.'*

A reading by a pupils from St Mary's Buckfast looked forward to the future for the children, *'For I know the plans I have for you' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.'* (Jeremiah)

Following the Mass, the children and their teachers enjoyed a picnic in the grounds of the Church, before returning to school. Thanks to Angela Folland, and Sarah Adams for organising the event.



The picture shows children, some of whom attend Priory RC Primary School who made their first Holy Communion at the parish of Our Lady of Help and St Dennis

3. Fire Risk Assessment Course

Paul Stewart has attended a Fire Risk Assessment course run the by Devon County Council Health and Safety Team. If you require any help or advice in writing your school's Fire Risk Assessment then please contact him at paul.stewart@keyhambarton.plymouth.sch.uk"

4. Debt Management in Schools

Bad Debtors – Recent budget setting has once again highlighted the issue of non-payment for school meals and school uniform by parents. Across the Trust this is low 6 figure value. Whilst it is recognised that some of our pupils come from disadvantaged backgrounds, often with low incomes, we must ensure that those that can pay, do pay. Recovery of these monies owed will always remain a school responsibility but if a Head Teacher or Governing Body feels a letter from the MAT to a persistent debtor may help then please let your Area Finance Officer know. This will not transfer the liability, but may help encourage payment.

5. Event Dates

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 5 July | Safeguarding Consultation Day for School DSL – St Boniface House, Ashburton |
| 6 & 7 July | God Matters Writers Group – Lord Haldon Hotel, Dunchideock |
| 11 July | Achieving Excellence in a Catholic School – Head Teachers All Areas – St Boniface House, Ashburton |

All above events are now on our website calendar with live booking links
<http://www.plymouthcast.org.uk/web/calendar/273068>

- | | |
|---------|--------------------|
| 19 July | CAST Board Meeting |
|---------|--------------------|

6. Date of Next Newsletter: 12th July 2017



Kate Griffin
Interim Chief Executive Officers

Distribution List

CAST Board Members
Chairs of the Local Governing Bodies (via Clerks)
Head Teachers
Clerks to Local Governing Bodies
CAST Senior Management Team
All CAST Support Staff including Area Advisers
Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) Members

Ofsted Inspections since October 2016

East

St Catherine's, Bridport	Requires Improvement
St Joseph's, Poole	Good
St Mary's, Dorchester	Good
St Augustine's, Weymouth	Good
St Mary's, Poole	Requires Improvement
St Mary's Marnhull	Good
St Mary's Axminster	Requires Improvement
Christ the King	Waiting Publication

Central

Our Lady & St Patrick's, Teignmouth	Good
St Mary's, Buckfast	Good
St Joseph's, Exmouth	Requires Improvement
Priory, Torquay	Special Measures
Queensway, Torquay	Special Measures
Our Lady's, Barnstaple	Requires Improvement
St Margaret Clitherow, Brixham	Special Measures
Sacred Heart, Paignton	Good
St John's, Tiverton	Requires Improvement
St John's, Dartmouth	Good

West

Notre Dame, Plymouth	Requires Improvement
St Joseph's, Plymouth	Good
St John's, Camborne	Good
Keyham Barton, Plymouth	Requires Improvement
St Mary's, Penzance	Special Measures
St Mary's, Bodmin	Requires Improvement
St Peter's, Plymouth	Good
Cathedral, Plymouth	Good
St Paul's, Plymouth	Good
St Boniface College, Plymouth	Special Measures